

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2014

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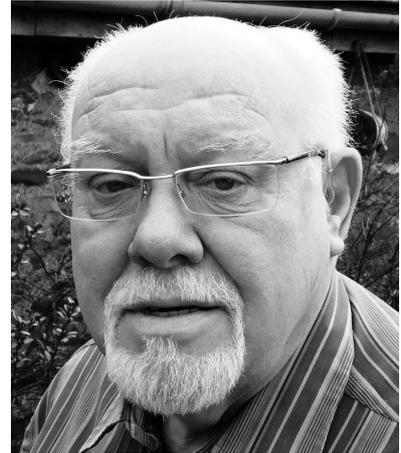
The views expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

Cover photo: Staveley Opera's first production ('The Mikado') in 1954.

The next issue of the *Journal* (No 31, the Summer 2014 issue) will be published about the 12th August 2014. All contributions (letters, articles, etc.) are welcome at any time but should be with the Editor no later than early July.

From the Chairman

They say that time flies when you are having fun. Then we must have been having fun this last year as it seems no time at all since I wrote the last end-of-year remarks. Certainly it has been a really successful year for our History Society with a host of interesting speakers and visits. Thinking back over the talks, we have had a tremendous variety of topics covering “19th Century Prints of the Lake District”, “Lakeland Bridges”, the history of mills on the upper River Kent and particularly a close look at the development of the Burneside Mills, the “Early Development of the Port of Lancaster” and in this year when the nation is remembering the centenary of the start of the First World War, a fascinating insight into the names on the Staveley War Memorial and the links to graves of some of those men in France. What a range of interest and all marked by the infectious enthusiasm of the speakers. Of course these talks don't just happen. We acknowledge the amount of time and effort taken to putting the talks together but we must record a generous vote of thanks to your committee and especially Don Morris who sets out the programme. You can be sure that there is already another interesting series of events planned for next year.



We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all members of the committee. There were lots of changes in the previous year but the officers are now fully settled in to their roles. In the autumn we bade farewell to John Berry who moved to Cheshire. He had been such a tower of strength to the society from its very beginnings and is sadly missed. Unfortunately we also lost Jemma Metcalfe-Gibson - but for the very best of reasons in that she had got married and they started a family. We wish her well and hope that sometime she will be able to return and add her experience and skills to the society once again. The committee presently includes the vice chairman, Mike Houston who takes a keen interest in oral history; Margaret Beck; Peter Lansberry who, as secretary, brings a wealth of experience from his wide range of other interests; Roger Collinge who, as treasurer, keeps a tight yet sympathetic control of the finances; Don Morris who is our programme organizer and speaker finder; John Hiley who produces the journal and our president, Clare Brockbank, who regularly hosts our meetings at her home. These events are often lively affairs combining business, interest and humour in equal measure and we really would welcome new members to the committee, not just to fill any vacancies but it is vitally important that we bring in new ideas and keep the rest of us on our toes.

One very important part of our being which has been missing for some time is our responsibility to record changes as they are happening. History is not just what happened long ago but it is being made today and every day. We have a duty to those that follow us to keep an up-to-date archive of things as they happen either in photographic or written records or both. These include changes and development in

our surroundings, new buildings, alterations to buildings, changes in the use of premises, new ventures within our communities, etc., etc. I said this last year and I make no apologies for repeating myself. We must keep our eyes open and our cameras ready to record history as it happens along with uncovering what has gone on before. There is always a lot to be done and we always have a great deal to learn. If you think you can offer some help in this or in any of our other activities, please give Peter your name or let me know. Keep up the good work and let us ensure that during the next year the society continues to grow and prosper.

It is with some regret that I have taken to decision to step down as chairman of the society. I have really enjoyed the work that this has involved but I think it is time that somebody else had a crack at it in the certain knowledge that who ever takes my place will bring new ideas and a new enthusiasm to the task so that the society can move on to even greater success.

Iain Johnston

Staveley War Memorial: Transcript of minutes of meetings.

11 Feb 1920 at The Institute: Chairman W H Challiner. Rev Jump suggested that a cross be erected on a suitable place to the men resident or connected with Staveley, who died. Rev Chaplin seconded. Mr Henry Storey said the memorial should include all who had fought, and there should be a recreation ground as part of the scheme. A committee was formed: Challiner, Chaplin, Jump, Middleton, Storey, Harrison and Brockbank. J. Millburn was then added. A bank account was then opened with £13.00s.04d from '*Peace celebration fund*' deposited with the Bank of Liverpool.

15 March 1920: Designs by Collingwood and Austin & Paley (Lancaster) submitted. A&P's accepted. Inscriptions on base: '*To the grateful and lasting memory of the men from Staveley who died in the Great War 1914-1918. Their names shall live from generation to generation.*' Resolved that a provisional list of names be placed in Middleton's shop window, and corrections and additions be suggested. The best site for the cross, the triangular piece of ground off the Kentmere Rd.

25 March 1920: Mr Paley inspected and approved the site.

3 May 1920: Mr Challiner to write to Paley pointing out that the design would cost much more than expected, and that a simpler design would be more satisfactory.

22 June 1920 at the Vicarage: Design No 3 was approved, a public meeting to be called to report what had been done.

28 June 1920 Public meeting: On the proposal of Mr Challiner it was resolved to accept design No 3, which was, with others, shown to the meeting. Five names, in

addition to those on 'our list' were submitted and after discussion it was agreed that the committee learn if these names were being commemorated on other memorials before including their names on Staveley's memorial. This was agreed as the test.

16 July 1920 at the Vicarage: Letter to A&P for definite estimate of the cost, and for the work to be carried out by a local stonemason. That a leaflet be sent round parish asking for contributions to the cost.

1 September at Reston: 2 estimates submitted: James Swallow, W, mere: £140; J W Howie & Sons, Kendal: £ 111.



Consulted the architect. Howie's estimate accepted. Rev Jump to verify names of the fallen by enquiry from relatives.

1 December at Reston: List of names revised and architects to send the committee final drawings of inscriptions and names. Finances balance: Peace celebration fund: £12.14s 08d. Subscriptions £272.15s 10d. There were 231 donations to the fund.

7 Jan 1921 at Middle Reston: Names should appear alphabetically. Austin & Paley to be written to....not to allow the sculptor's name to appear on any part of the memorial. Bank account transferred from Rev Chaplin to Mr W H Challiner.

21 Feb 1921 at Reston: Mr Paley to meet the committee on site to advise on preparation of the ground, and design the form of the surround.

11 April 1921: Design of the surround by Mr P was accepted, and Mr Howie's estimate of £68.10.00 accepted, subject to certain modifications.

11 June 1921: Unveiling and dedication fixed for 2.30pm 2 July 1921. Colonel Crewdson to unveil the cross, the vicar to read the prayer of dedication, and Rev Chaplin, J G Read and J Bowness to take part in the ceremony. Mr Legge of Burneside to train the united choir, and conduct the singing. Choirs from the church, Wesleyan and United to form choir. Captain Watson to help assembling ex-servicemen and Territorials, and bugler to sound the Last Post. 750 copies of booklet to be printed with names of the dead, and all of those who served, so far as these could be ascertained.

29 June 1921: Final arrangements made, Girl Guides to assist...handing out papers.

2 July 1921: Cross Unveiled.

24 November 1921: Statement of account shows a balance of £79.09s 01d it was decided that a sum of £25 be held in trust for repairs and maintenance of the cross. In case there is no call on this money, and the money increases to £50, any excess should be devoted to some object in the village, at the discretion of the trustees. Disposal of the balance: suggestion that a contribution be made to the recreation ground was sympathetically received, but no decision made.

9 December 1924: It was resolved that £50 be handed to the recreation ground committee. A gate, from the catalogue of Messrs Bayliss and Jones was approved, cost £ 47.10s 00d. Resolved that a suitable inscription be placed on it...also a statement of account be placed in windows and a list of subscribers left for one month.

Balance sheet from Rev'd Jump:

	£	s	d		£	s	d
<i>Peace Fund:</i>	13	00	04	<i>Kentmere Printing:</i>	9	03	10
<i>234 subs:</i>	287	15	10	<i>Austin & Paley:</i>	27	10	00
<i>Back list:</i>		<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<i>Howie (cross):</i>	111	00	00
	£307	14	05	<i>Lettering:</i>	10	17	06
				<i>Surround:</i>	68	10	00
				<i>Shepherd:</i>	1	02	00
				<i>Cheque Book:</i>		02	00
				<i>Balance:</i>	<u>79</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>01</u>
					£307	14	05

24 December 1924: Resolved....the land, war memorial and balance of £30.16s 02d be placed in the hands of the parishes of Nether and Over Staveley, balance to be used for repair and upkeep; the committee to be strongly urged to proceed at once with the necessary cleaning and repairs.

transcribed by David Shackleton

Staveley's Volunteer Firefighters – Part 2

(This is the second part of an article written by John Armthwaite, transcribed from the December 1952 edition of Cumbria.)

Tommy Johnson's father, who was called John Willie, was born at the nearby hamlet of Crook. He established the joinery business in 1892, and Tommy has been a joiner since 1908. *"The old shop is pretty much the same as it has always been - except that when I first started I only got 6d. pocket money a week."*

He ate a Pigeon: When he was married in 1912, he worked a 55-hour week for 27s. 6d. and *"gave t' missus 25s. for housekeeping."* Having only 2s. 6d. for himself did not worry Tommy, for *"in those days fags were 2d. for ten. I like shooting and I could buy twenty-five cartridges for 2s. 1d. Today they are about 13s. A pint of beer in the passage of the pub cost 2d. They charged you a penny extra if you drank it at the counter. And a bottle of Scotch whisky cost only 2s. 9d. Aye, and you could get merry on four pints of beer. George Cannon, proprietor of the Fat Lamb Inn, brewed his own."*

Among the many folk tales I heard at the old joiners shop at Staveley was one relating to a local blacksmith, Miles Hogarth who accepted an unusual wager. He offered to eat a whole pigeon, bones included, in an hour, and if he succeeded, he was to receive a pint of beer. Miles won his wager comfortably, though he confessed afterwards he had some trouble digesting the breastbone. This event took place at the Sun Inn at Crook at a time when the licensee was a Mr. Walker. The pigeon, one of the homing variety, was cooked by Mrs Walker. A poem was written to mark the occasion, and Mr. Thompson still remembers fragments of this poem, including a pathetic note about Tom Gilpin's spaniel dog, which stood by in case the blacksmith was defeated by the meal:

*Poor old Floss stood near the table,
As near the meal as she was able;
With watering mouth and anxious eyes
She found the smith to be unkind.*

Carts and wheels were once produced at the shop at Staveley. These carts sold for about £13 in 1908. Tommy and his father also repaired water wheels in the district. There were three wheels in the village itself, and they provided power for the machinery very econornically. There are no water wheels *"doing anything "* in the vicinity today.

When almost everyone in rural villages had a nickname, there was one man who rejoiced in the title of *"Sugary Bob"*, and four lads were known as Ninny, Nobby, Parrot and Pums. Tommy's brother did not escape a nickname, and because he was a joiner he was generally known as *"Two-foot"*, the two-foot rule being a prominent item of equipment in his trade. Only a few weeks ago a woman called at the shop and asked how *"Two-foot"* was going on!

Jack Airey, joiner at Ings, was an old resident brought to mind by Tommy, and he recalled that one night Jack was on his way home from Staveley when he reached a certain spot where a five-bar gate was located. It was a very dark night, and Jack held out one of his arms as he approached the gate, feeling for the woodwork. By a strange chance his arm went between two of the bars of the gate, and the first intimation he had of reaching it was when his nose hit the woodwork rather sharply. Jack was puzzled, and muttered to himself: "*Fust time I knew me nose was longer than me arm!*"

First Through the Tunnels: When Jack was apprenticed to the trade he was once left in charge of the shop while his master went off for the day. He had to make a frame for a window, and next day his master asked to look at it. Jack produced the frame, and the master gasped. "*Never seen a worse window frame in my life,*" he said. "*Well, I have,*" said Jack. "*I'm sure you haven't,*" said master. "*Look at this one*" was the reply, as Jack drew a previous effort from under the bench.

One of the best known men in Staveley is Bob Fisher, and he has witnessed local life for eighty years. He told me that when he was born the new church had just been built, and that Old Joe Bownass had the contract for the work. How this new church came to be built is an interesting story. The old church (only the tower of this building remains today) was constructed about 1485 in a low and unhealthy situation. In wet weather, sheets of water could be seen in the graveyard and the church itself was damp. Towards the close of the eighteenth century it was restored. Unfortunately, bad taste was shown, and the original character of the building was destroyed. Eventually, when time and the weather made the congregation think about further restoration, it was decided instead to pull down the church and build another in a more pleasant situation. This work was carried out. The new building



Thirlmere pipeline workers - 1893

was opened in 1865 and consecrated by the Bishop of Carlisle. A quaint custom, a relic of old Catholic times, was observed at Staveley church. Men sat down one side of the building, and women occupied the pews at the other side.

As Bob Fisher told me about the completion of the new church we could look across the road to where it was standing, backed up by trees,

in the sunshine of early afternoon. Then, looking up at the hills, Bob told me he carried the first tool into Craggy Tunnel, part of the great plan of Manchester

Corporation for obtaining water from Thirlmere. "Aye," he added, "and I was first through Scar Tunnel as well. That's going on for seventy years ago. I was working in yon bobbin mill. One Sunday night a ganger came up to me and asked me how much I got paid. I said, 'six and sixpence.' He said, 'I'll give you 14s. if you'll carry tools for me.' So I started work on the waterworks plan. And when work was done I went back to the bobbin mills."

Bob told me that hammers and drills were used in the work. "There were no such things as jack hammers." When the tunnels were being excavated for the water pipes there were hundreds of workmen in Staveley district and one could "witness four or five fights a day! The workmen were rough of manner and "came from all over." Some lived in wooden huts; others lodged with village folk, paying 14s. a week for accommodation and food. "There was more booze l than owt else," Bob recalled. I started work the day after I was eleven, and got 1s. 6d. a week. Day after I was thirteen I started full time at 2s. 9d. a week. Bought baccy as a 'pennorth o' bits,' and you got as much for a penny as you'll get for 2s. 6d. today."

Fairs and Markets: Staveley's sheep fair, held on 7th October, was an important event in the local calendar, and Bob said it was the biggest of its kind in the North. "They used to come from all over, but the fairs gone down now. It was held in a field next to the station, just above the Eagle and Child. There were no houses on Station Road and t' land was set out with sheep pens. Fair's not held today. The auction marts finished it." Later I discovered that as early as 1329 William de Roos obtained from Edward III a charter for weekly market on Friday and a fair yearly, on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Luke. T. F. Bulmer, writing in 1885, recorded that two fairs were held yearly in the village, "one on the Wednesday before Easter for cattle and the other on the seventh day of October for sheep."

I invited Bob to tell me of some of the changes which have come to Staveley since his childhood, and he recalled that then the village was only one street and motor traffic was unknown. "I remember once, my father, who lit the gas lamps, said to me: 'It won't be in my time, but you will see the day when there will be carriages going without horses.' I was only eleven years old at the time. I've thought about it many times since."

"You know, I wish I'd as many shillings as times I'd walked to and from Kendal," he commented, and his eyes told me that if this came true he would be very rich. "It was practically all walking. As a young man I went to Carlisle to look for a job. I began labouring for wallers. Hard times came, so set off for home. I couldn't afford the rail fare, so I walked from Carlisle to Kendal in one day, and had a turnip for my dinner. I sneaked it out of a field by the side of Shap. I could take you to within ten yards of where I ate it." "How far is it from Carlisle to Kendal?" I asked. "About forty-four miles," said Bob. I left just after seven o'clock from Carlisle and I was in Kendal about twelve hours later."

In his prime, Bob Fisher was keen on Rugby and Soccer and he told me that a Staveley team won the League cup three years in succession playing Rugby. _“I’ve a medal in the house which I got when I was playing goal at Soccer in the 1903-4 season,” he said, “There’s practically no interest in sport in the village today.”



J.A. Martindale
(1837-1914)

When Bob was a schoolboy, his friends nicknamed him "Parson." Mr. Martindale was in charge of Staveley school, and thirty or forty children made up Bob's class. Joseph Anthony Martindale is called "*a remarkable headmaster*" in a history of Staveley School from 1538 to 1927 written by the Rev. E.W. J. McConnel (Vicar). Martindale came to Staveley in 1859, holding the post of headmaster until 1902. He was the first to join the local Volunteer Company; he was a musician, artist, geologist and student of six languages. As a botanist he was very distinguished, in Europe especially, where he was well known as an authority on lichens. His great work in plant systematization was the collection of all

the recorded plants of the pre-Linnaean Period from 1597-1744. His own herbarium comprised about 2,000 flowering plants and 1,000 flowerless plants. He died on 4th April, 1914, aged 76, and was buried in the churchyard at Staveley.

A Fulling Mill: In 1865 there was a fee of 2d. a week for each child who used copy books but 1d only for those who only learned reading. In the seventeenth century, it was customary for the master to receive from the children of Staveley School a cockpenny at Shrovetide and a pound of candles at Christmas. In 1807, the Rev. Peter Strickland became curate of Staveley and master of 'Staveley Free Grammar school.' Tradition tells an amusing story about him. He could never bear the sound of thunder, and would dismiss school on the beginning of a thunderstorm. Taking advantage of this peculiarity, some of his pupils, if they wanted a holiday, would roll heavy weights on the floor above the schoolroom in order to imitate the sound of thunder, and so produce the desired result.

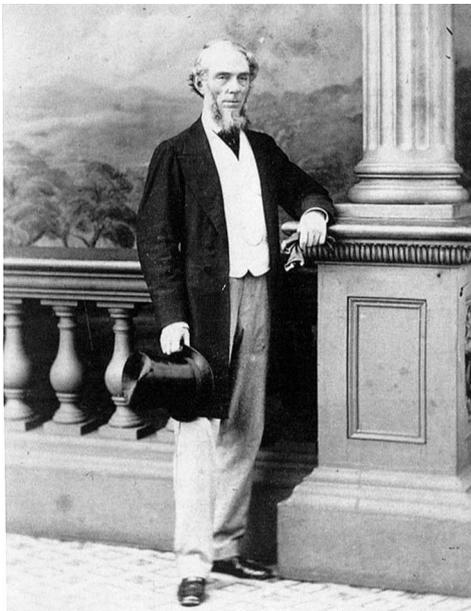
Mr. William Knowles has been employed by Kentmere, Ltd., at Staveley, for forty - six years, and he told me the premises were formerly a fulling mill. Mention is made of a fulling mill at Staveley [worth, incidentally, 10s. per annum) in 1341, ten years after the establishment of the woollen trade at Kendal. Bob Fisher can remember the time before the old cottages opposite the church were built and cloth was hung on racks in a pleasant field after it had been processed.

The waller was still hard at work near the bridge as I left Staveley and journeyed over the hill to Kendal. Was it local pride which prompted another old resident of Staveley to describe the 'gateway' to the Lake District - mighty Kendal - as "*t' next village*"?

The other Bateman legacy

John Berry writes: When living in Staveley I spent some time as a voluntary guide for the National Trust at Townend. On moving to Congleton in October 2013 I volunteered to join the team at Biddulph Grange. I was fascinated to learn of the Bateman family and of their Westmorland origins. In fine weather I walk or cycle from my home to the Grange using the trackbed of the Biddulph Valley Railway now converted to public use – hence my interest in the industrial history.

Society members may well be familiar with the legacy to the village of Ings given by Robert Bateman (1678-1743). Whilst there is no known connection, with the population at the end of the 17th century being considerable smaller than today, and less mobile, it is highly likely that Robert was related in some way to the other Bateman family living at Burneside at the time. Unfortunately the pages from the Kendal Parish Registers for this time are missing so we are unable to check.



James Bateman (1812 -97)

Thomas Bateman, and his wife Isabella (née Redman) acquired Tolson Hall in Burneside sometime around the beginning of the 18th century. Their son, John was born there in 1719. John took over Tolson Hall when his father died, but it was John's eldest son, James (b. 1749) who was the first of the family to venture south like Robert had, half a century earlier, to seek his fortune. James gave up his rights to Tolson Hall in favour of a gift of money with which to set up a business. However, he didn't venture all that far south, and bought into a metalwork business in Salford around 1780. This business became successful in making engineering castings, and he formed a partnership with an engineer called William Sherratt in 1791. The firm of Bateman and Sherratt set up the Salford Iron

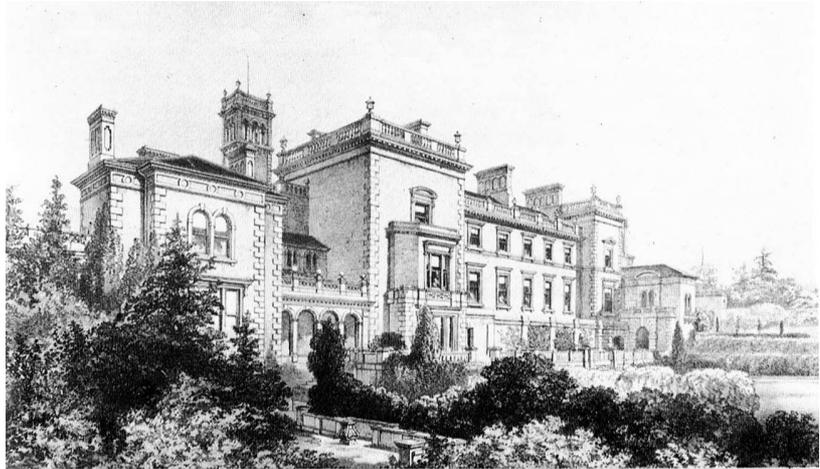
Works and became one of the largest manufacturers of cast iron products and stationary steam engines, outselling even Boulton & Watt of Birmingham. Many of their machines went into the expanding Manchester cotton mills.

Having made his fortune, James decided to invest in the coalfields of North Staffordshire, where he bought the Knypersley estate and Hall in 1809, and later purchased the nearby Grange vicarage, its grounds and farm. After James finally retired in 1821, the Salford Iron Works continued under the Sherratt family until they were bought out by Mather & Platt who continued the business until 1938.

James and his wife Elizabeth (nee Braithwaite) had five children and it was the eldest of these, John, who came to live at the Knypersley Hall. When his father died, John, who was by this time married to another Elizabeth and had four children, stated his preference to live in Staffordshire and the Salford home was eventually sold in 1824.

It is interesting to note that the Bateman's business in Salford was partly owned and financed by the Kendal bankers, Wilson, Crewdson and Huddleston. Under John's son James the Grange vicarage property was extended into a fine mansion, to be known as simply 'The Grange' from 1840.

Output from the Knypersley coalfields was carried initially by packhorse to the nearby towns and not surprisingly, Bateman and other colliery owners were anxious to promote a railway or tramway to connect south to the potteries and north to the manufacturing town of Congleton, where it would also connect with the



Biddulph Grange and gardens in 1871

Macclesfield Canal. This finally came to fruition in 1853, when both a private bill (promoted by the colliery owners) and an almost identical one promoted by the North Staffordshire Railway came before parliament. Not surprisingly, the NSR scheme was accepted and the act for its construction passed in 1854. John Bateman cut the first sod at a ceremony in 1858, helped by the deputy Chairman of the NSR, Mr Broderick, and watched by the contractor Mr Tredwell. Unfortunately, this was one of John Bateman's last acts; he never saw the railway completed and died shortly afterwards.

The Bateman business then passed to his sons John (1810 – 1872) and James (1812 – 1897). John lived at Knypersley Hall and James remained at the Grange where he had supervised the extensions to the house in 1840. James' great interest was in plants and botany, (he had studied this at college in Oxford) and in conjunction with his wife Maria (née Egerton-Warburton) and their friend and garden designer Edward Cooke, he had built an extensive garden designed to show off many of the plants that he had acquired. James' garden was like no other; there were sections devoted to the plants of different countries and each cleverly screened from the other by hedges, mounds and walls. He had a passion for orchids, and sponsored expeditions to Mexico and South America to collect specimens. His principal 'collector' was a Thomas Colley from Oxford who had the distinction of having one species named after him – *Batemannia Colleyei*. James published three books on orchids, and commissioned artists to illustrate these. One example contains large hand coloured plates by Walter Hood Fitch (1817 – 92).

James' contribution to science was recognised by fellowship of both the Linnean and Royal Societies, and he served as Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society. Whilst there is no evidence that the two ever met, it is almost certain that the Staveley Headmaster, Joseph Martindale, would have been aware of Bateman's existence. The

mid to late Victorian period was a time of great discoveries, and challenged many earlier beliefs. Bateman was a believer in Divine Creation and nothing shows the conflict between this and Darwin's evolution theory more than the geological gallery



Biddulph Grange gardens today

he constructed in the gardens. The original idea was a gallery of the six days of creation into which Bateman would slot the plants, trees and flowers he had collected. However, by the time he died, and despite his corresponding with Darwin, the fossilised remains he had collected had been shown to come from different millennia and he was forced to accept that the 'six days' were perhaps geological periods.

Like Robert in Ings, the Batemans also invested in churches for the expanding workforce. During the rebuilding of the original parish church in 1833/4 John Bateman gave money for the chancel and a stained glass window. The new church at Knypersley in 1848 was entirely funded by them, to the tune of £10,000 – a very large sum at the time. The design of the church was carried out by Edward Cooke who had designed the Grange gardens. After John's death son James funded a new church at Biddulph Moor in 1863 – again to Cooke's design. Provision for the destitute was made by Mrs Bateman setting up the Women's Society and becoming its first President. Its aim was 'to ensure on a durable basis the general welfare of the female inhabitants of Biddulph, and more especially to afford them an immediate opportunity of providing against the calamity of sickness and the infirmity of old age.' In addition, as her introduction attested, it was to provide for the widows and orphans created by sudden calamities in the mines.

James Bateman and his wife left Biddulph Grange in 1868, moving initially to Hyde Park Gate in London, and finally in 1884 to Worthing in Sussex, where he died on 27 November 1897. The Grange was sold to fellow colliery owner Robert Heath in 1872 whose family continued to live there (through the 1896 fire and rebuilding) until it was sold to become a children's hospital in 1923. Hospital use continued into the 1980s and the gardens, by this time much run down, were passed to the National Trust in 1988.

John Berry

(I am indebted to fellow volunteer at Biddulph Grange, Derek Wheelhouse for his help, and to the official history of the area which he helped to compile in 1980. Derek was until recently the Chairman of Biddulph & District Genealogy and Historical Society – www.bdghs.org.uk)